## BHEW Bulletin

## May 2012

## Boating while Intoxicated in Missouri...



- In Missouri it is illegal to operate a boat with a BAC of .08% or higher. In certain circumstances, it may be a felony. Some skills involved in operating a boat may be affected at even lower levels.
- On average, a BAC of .08% occurs when a man consumes 5+ drinks within two hours or a woman consumes 4+ drinks in the same amount of time. However, there are other contributing factors which may mean that .08% is reached at a smaller amount. A standard drink is defined as 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine, or 1.5 ounces of 72-proof distilled spirits.<sup>2</sup> A mixed drink or a glass of beer/wine served in a restaurant may contain more than one serving.

"Beer bongs" are prohibited on state rivers with the exception of the Mississippi, Missouri and Osage.<sup>1</sup>

- There were 318 people arrested in 2010 for boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs.<sup>3</sup>
- Anyone convicted of Boating While Intoxicated is required to take a boating safety class in addition to other fines or penalties.<sup>4</sup>
- Of the 234 boating crashes in 2010, 65 (28%) involved alcohol. These alcohol involved crashes resulted in 39 injured people. Alcohol was also involved in the majority of fatalities resulting from a boating accident (8 out of 14).<sup>3</sup>
- For more information on safe boating, see the Missouri Online Training at <a href="http://www.boat-ed.com/Missouri/index.html">http://www.boat-ed.com/Missouri/index.html</a>

For more information please contact the BHEW at 314-877-5942 or susan.depue@mimh.edu

Behavioral Health



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://www.boat-ed.com/mo/handbook/alcohol.htm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://www.madd.org/laws/law-overview/08 Per Se Law Overview.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> MO BHEW. Retrieved from: http://dmh.mo.gov/seow/default.aspx on 5/24/2012

<sup>4</sup> http://www.visittablerocklake.org/page.php?id=3